

SONOMA COUNTY


peace press

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WHAT'S INSIDE?

- ▶ Changes at the PJC
- ▶ Speaking Truth While in Power
- ▶ May 1st March & Rally
- ▶ Homelessness in So.Co. –
A Different Recipe
- ▶ A History of US Forever Wars

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'EARTH DAY'
IS A REMINDER
THAT WE MUST
COOPERATE TO
DEFEND LIFE
ON OUR PLANET
YEAR-ROUND

Newsletter of the Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County,
an affiliate of the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR).
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SUBMITTING ARTICLES

Deadline to submit articles for the June/July issue is May 17, 2023
Email articles with title on the document, in MSWord to zenekar2@gmail.com
(put PEACE PRESS in all caps on subject line)
Word limit up to 900 words (negotiable).
Shorter pieces welcome about local actions and events.

Authors are encouraged to delineate fact from opinion and wherever possible to substantiate their facts with references. Include ways readers can engage with the movement for peace and social justice.

We welcome poems but limited to approx. 30 lines.

EDITING POLICY

The Editorial Collective selects articles that serve the movement for peace and social justice to inspire and motivate readers to positive action. Articles are edited for clarity, syntax, grammar, length and spelling. If needed, authors will be contacted to assist with editing.

Submissions must contain author's name, address, phone number, word count and a brief – one or two sentence bio. Decisions about editing fall within these guidelines and are the final judgment of the Peace Press Editorial Collective.

Articles are the opinion of the author unless otherwise noted.

CALENDAR ITEMS

Events on topics of social justice, environmental, and related items to be placed in the PJC weekly email calendar, can be sent to peacejusticesonoma@gmail.com
Include CALENDAR (in caps) on subject line.

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COVER Beijing at night, seen from the International Space Station. Mother Nature has no interest in where the borders of Russia, America or China stop and start.
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Office hours: 1-4 PM, M-F. Best to call ahead to ensure volunteers are available when you visit. To receive the PJC weekly Social Justice e-newsletter, go to: PJCso.org

Changes at the Peace & Justice Center

by PJC Board of Directors

Lots of changes at the Peace & Justice Center in the last month. Our longtime director, Shekeyna Black has left us and is now with the Santa Rosa Sympathy. We wish her well. Since then, the Board of Directors has been looking for a new director as well as keeping the Center moving forward. We are now open Monday through Friday from 1 to 4. Stop by and say hi to Larry, Rebel, Alice, or George.

We held a benefit concert in February with David Rovics. It was quite successful with many people commenting that it was good to see the PJC open again. We're going to try to do more events. At that event we gathered clothes, sleeping bags and other supplies to help the unhoused during this cold, wet winter. These supplies have all gone out to those in need.

In the last couple of months, we've become home for the Party for Socialism & Liberation who meet here on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday in the evenings for study groups. Almas held a workshop for indigenous women who have Spanish as a second language,

facilitated by members of Movimiento Cultural de la Union Indigena. We're proud that the PJC could host such an event. Hopefully they'll be more. The Environmental Center is partnering with us and will be meeting at the Center soon.

We've redesigned our web page so that it's even easier to navigate. Go to www.pjcsoco.org to see it. Featured on this page are the links to our long running publication the *Peace Press*, to the e-blast, which informs people of events that are happening right now and our YouTube channel with videos of the PJC at work. In addition to this we now have a couple of comprehensive resource lists. Go to www.pjcsoco.org to explore all of this.

There's lots happening at the Peace & Justice Center with opportunities for more to come. This is your Peace & Justice Center, your space to create in order to pursue peace through justice. What you bring to the table is what we serve up to the community. Add some ingredients to the gumbo of peace and justice today. 🌿

Answer to Montgomery High Altercation: Restorative Justice

by North Bay Organizing Project

Earlier this month, a violent altercation broke out on the Montgomery High School campus between three students. This incident, seemingly the product of interactions that had escalated over the course of weeks prior, resulted in one student dead, one injured and one lost to the justice system – and a county full of youth who are now posed with the question, who keeps us safe?

Mere hours after this tragedy transpired, a press conference was held, and School Resource Officers (SROs) were immediately presented to the fearful public as the answer. Despite the SRO's attempt to take advantage of the narrative of the moment, and present their services as a sort of saving grace, many students and parents do not believe that SROs are the solution.

And they aren't wrong.

Following the widely publicized murder of George Floyd in 2020 – a tragedy which arguably awoke our nation to the realities of police brutality and the power discrepancy between law enforcement and civilians – many cities and counties across the country began reevaluating the presence of police officers on school campuses. While the relationship between school administration and SROs was originally intended to create a safe learning environment for students, this program ultimately resulted in an increase in suspensions and expulsions – punishments which fell disproportionately on black and brown youth.

Evaluations conducted by the Santa Rosa City School Board revealed that nearly three times as many Latino students were suspended as whites, despite making up roughly equal portions of the population. Black students also faced punishment at an unreasonable rate, making up seven percent of school suspensions while only comprising three percent of student enrollment at the time. Per the review of these statistics, and weeks of community listening sessions and deliberation, the school board voted

unanimously to suspend the SRO program in June 2020. Come November of the same year, the trustees voted not to renew their agreement with the Santa Rosa Police Department, and what had originally been a pause to the program ultimately resulted in its disbandment.

Three years later, in the midst of panic and uncertainty, some people are arguing to reinstate the same program, which has historically proven to be not only ineffective, but extremely harmful. This is being suggested even though the youth have come

*The youth have begun their research,
they've defined their demands, and
they are ready to be heard.*

into the conversation prepared, taking part in community listening sessions and board meetings to advocate for the change which they believe will truly improve the safety of their campuses and the quality of their learning environment.

On Saturday, March 11, the Latinx Student Congress (LSC) (in collaboration with the North Bay Organizing Project) facilitated a leadership training for youth in which community organizers helped students to narrow down the most prominent issues on their school campuses, define their demands for change, and create a winnable plan. Students were asked to write the issues they felt were most pressing on a sticky note, and place them on a board at the front of the room. While participants responded to the group in a variety of ways, each response conveyed a similar theme. It became apparent that the recent escalation in violence among students is stemming

Restorative Justice...see page 14

Homelessness in So.Co. – A Different Recipe

by Mikeal (Ozzy) OToole

When I came to Santa Rosa in late 1998 there wasn't an "unhoused" problem. I remember walking from Denny's on Santa Rosa Avenue to Safeway on Mendocino and hardly seeing any other unhoused people.

Now I see unhoused in every nook and cranny of our community. And make no mistake, these are people that have been part of this community, born and raised here. The Point in Place Count has shown up to 85 percent of Sonoma County's homeless fall into that category.

Why is this? It is because in 2014 there was a wind on the horizon of housing reform which had no chance. So, in a knee-jerk reaction, places that normally catered to low income people started

place in which to live is not in itself criminal," these encampments should be as treated like normal housing and the inhabitants should be treated like those live in actual housing.

They should be self-managed by residents of the encampments, so as to foster ownership in the endeavor. There should be an oversight committee made up of county, city, nonprofit agencies, law enforcement, community representation, and the unhoused themselves, to address progress and any issues that arise.

People living in encampments should enjoy the same freedoms allowed to those who are housed. They should have the freedom to come and go as they please without curfews. If they wish to have a guest that should be permitted with stipulations not that different from HUD housing – safety protocols. They should have a large tent to be used as a central hub for the encampments, where there can be classes for things such as higher education, employment education, basic living skills training, drug and alcohol services, meetings and classes like "Seeking Safety" and S.M.A.R.T. Recovery. There should be a communal labor system. And there should be total transparency towards the community with an in-kind system so that those in the

community who wish to provide in-kind services know where their donations are going. There should be a mentor program where members of the community pair up with a resident to help move them towards reintegration into society. The encampments should use peers in all aspects of service – peer mental health specialists to assist with mental health challenge others to help with financial issues and legal issues and any other barriers to obtaining housing.

To successfully reintegrate the unhoused back in to society we must first address and treat them as equals in society. We cannot continue to treat them as if they are different simply because they are unhoused. They must be afforded the same opportunities to rise to the occasion or fail as any other person. That is dignity and humanity at it's best, and as such Sonoma County at it's best.

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dumping them on the street, places that took HUD (Housing and Urban Development funding) were not renewing leases. Instead they started upgrading their properties to draw in those who could pay higher rents from the Bay Area, displacing the largest number of Sonoma County residents in history.

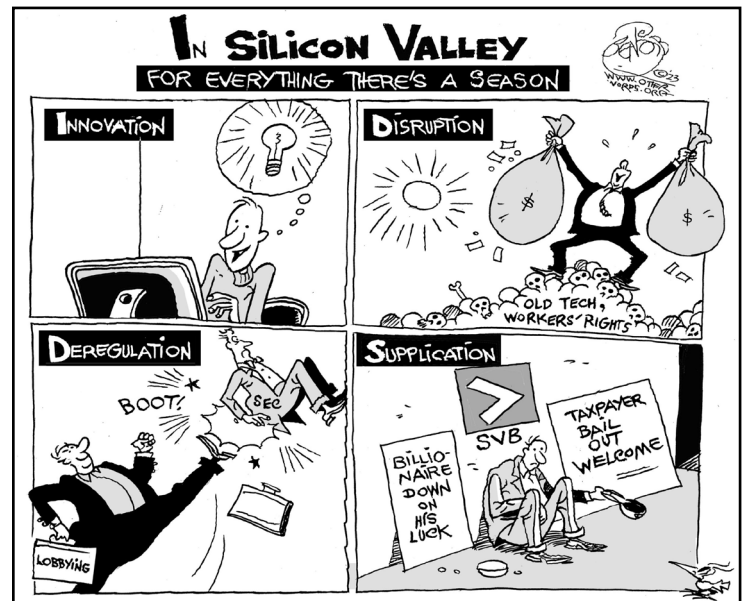
So then to address this growing crisis, and to appease those that sought gentrification, those in authority chose to develop a system that they would use time and again. They used it at "Homeless Hill," 6th Street overpass, Safe Parking, and then Camp Michela and the Joe Rodota Trail.

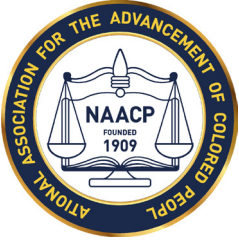
And they are using it again, which will only produce the same outcomes – a rush to solve a problem years in creation. It is a direct result of the city's and county's neglect to address this proactively. But it only an issue because the wealthy and powerful have a voice in our community and those who are most affected by this crisis have no voice at all. The municipalities also step up when there is a possible funding benefit for them, which is where we find ourselves now.

There are two factors that fueled the sudden need to address the unhoused crisis. The first is that the more affluent people who use the Joe Rodota Trail are bothered and frightened by the dirty and unhoused people who live along the trail. The second is that a hefty chunk of homeless funding is coming up for distribution to the tune of \$250 million and Sonoma County lost out on the last round.

But they have no real plan except to throw up encampments, and use the same methodology as in the past and hope it works. The reason is that there is little to no permanent low-income housing, and what does exist is priced at market value. But HUD doesn't cover market rate for low housing income in Sonoma County.

Now what needs to happen in a realistic, proactive and progressive way, is that the dignity that any other resident in Sonoma County is afforded, the people in these encampments should also be afforded. Because the 9th Circuit of the Supreme Court for the Northern District has deemed that "To be without a





NAACP

Santa Rosa – Sonoma County

Speaking Truth While in Power

by Kirstyne Lange

Over the last three years we have seen an increase of diversity in our elected official and administrative leadership pool throughout Sonoma County. Many of these leaders broke barriers as the “first” in their respective roles across city and county government in a county that has been a formal establishment for over 170 years. For many members of the community, seeing folks who looked like them in leadership, elected to office and sitting in mayoral ranks was a sign that times were finally changing.

The joy and excitement swiftly shifted with the reality of everyone not fully being thrilled at their groundbreaking feats. Met with disrespect, being undermined, chastised, confronted with microaggressions and overt and covert racial bias, these leaders have had to continue to prove that they are good enough to hold their roles.

After the departure of six Black county officials over the last 18 months, the NAACP Santa Rosa – Sonoma County Branch continues to ask “*At what point are we going to move from being shocked at these experiences and move into taking accountability for the conditions under which these circumstances continue to exist?*”

Mayor Rogers sharing her truth during her speech at the Petaluma Blacks event should not have been front page news. That should not have warranted a barrage of aggressive phone calls and sharp toned emails to well over 20 leaders of color in the community to

essentially “verify” her truth. She said what she said, bravely.

What should have made the news was the continuation of these types of microaggressive behaviors in 2023. It has become normal to disrespect leaders of color in Sonoma County and that should be accepted as truth. The investigative journalism that should have taken place was an inquiry to all of the silent leaders on the Board of Supervisors and all other City Councils on what they plan to do to move from the comfort of saying they are an ally toward showing up as an accomplice to mitigate the passive permission that allows such conduct. Their silence or need to speak with Mayor Rogers first before they can show up for her and so many others, simply models the problem at hand.

Those who have the privilege of not encountering race-based microaggressions and bias are the very ones who need to set their fragility aside and stand up to addressing the need for institutional cultural shift that needs to take place across a number of government entities. With so many self-proclaimed allies, I am deeply disappointed in the silence. Silence breeds permission – permission to continue with the status quo even as it brings harm onto others. Ultimately, silence is complicity.

Frankly, the County needs to fully fund the Office of Equity. It is pointless to have a pillar of Equity when it is underfunded and understaffed to do the work it has been outlined to do both internally and externally in the community. Where is the story on this? 🙏

Kirstyne Lange is President of NAACP Santa Rosa – Sonoma County Branch.

Become a member of the NAACP Santa Rosa - Sonoma County



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IOLERO's Community Advisory Council Sets Priorities

by Lorena Barrera and Nancy Pemberton

The Community Advisory Council (CAC) to the Independent Office of Law Enforcement Review and Outreach (IOLERO) held its first, but in no way its last, retreat in late February. Invited to address the CAC and the public were Board of Supervisors Chair Chris Coursey and Sheriff Eddie Engram, each addressing issues of importance to their organization and relevant to CAC's mission.

After hearing from members of the public during open comment, the two speakers, and IOLERO's Executive Director John Alden, CAC members got down to work. In a span of two hours, CAC identified and discussed the issues brought forth by the members of the public and considered priorities to fulfilling their mission “to increase visibility for the public into the delivery by the sheriff-coroner of policing and corrections services, to provide community participation in the review and establishment of sheriff-coroner policies, procedures, practices, training, and initiatives, and to engage the public to better understand the role of IOLERO and of the sheriff-coroner.” (Measure P, Ordinance No. 6333, Section 2-397(a).)

The CAC selected two high-priority issues: promoting and strengthening the goals of the Racial Identity Profiling Advisory Board in Sonoma County and encouraging the recruitment, hiring and retention of a qualified, diverse staff for the Sheriff's office. Three “second tier” issues also were selected: identifying and promoting mental health alternatives to in-custody mental health treatment, promoting best practices by the Sheriff's office in conducting evictions, and identifying and promoting best practices by Sheriff deputies in de-escalating potentially volatile situations.

Each of these issues will require research by, and education of, CAC members alongside the public, and will potentially result in policy recommendations to the Sheriff's office. Over the coming 12 to 18 months, the CAC hopes to address each of these issues at its monthly meetings. We encourage the public to join us in our work, by attending and speaking at our meetings, by writing us with your thoughts, and by volunteering to help on our ad hoc committees when they are formed. 🙏

Lorena Barrera, Chairperson and Nancy Pemberton, Vice-Chairperson, of CAC

Project Labor Agreements Are Good Public Policy!

by *Martin J. Bennett*

Last year the Biden administration recognized the benefits of Project Labor Agreements (PLAs, a.k.a. Project Stabilization Agreements) when the President signed an Executive Order (EO) requiring PLAs for all large government-funded construction projects. The EO will affect \$262 billion in federal construction and create 200,000 construction jobs paying middle-class wages while providing comprehensive benefits.

Most importantly, the EO addresses two of the central challenges of our time: the loss of high-paying manufacturing jobs since the 1970s and the existential threat of climate change. Many of these new jobs will be good green jobs for constructing wind, solar and other renewable energy facilities.

Locally, the Sonoma Valley Unified School District recently approved a PLA for all large construction projects. SVUSD joins dozens of California school districts, such as Santa Rosa City Schools, that have adopted PLAs. Additionally, the City of Santa Rosa is now considering a PLA, and the County will soon revise its existing PLA.

The academic research demonstrates that these agreements are

The North Bay Building Trades Council has developed a free ten-week pre-apprenticeship program that teaches the basic skills required to enter fourteen skilled trades apprenticeship programs.

cost-effective, completed on time and on budget and that a highly trained workforce performs the work. PLAs establish fair wages and uniform compensation for all crafts and mandate the highest standards for worker health and safety.

What are PLAs?

A PLA is a pre-hire agreement for construction projects requiring skilled labor and coordination amongst numerous crafts, contractors, and subcontractors. These legally binding agreements are made between public agencies, developers, general contractors, and construction trade unions. PLAs set employment terms, work rules, and dispute-resolution policies. Local union hiring halls dispatch qualified workers. Strikes and work stoppages are barred.

PLAs have been used in large-scale construction projects in the private and public sectors. In the 1930s, the Shasta Dam in California and the Hoover Dam in Nevada were built with PLAs. More recently, Bay Area PLAs include the expansion of the Oakland and San Francisco airports, the conversion of the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard to a mixed-use project, the construction of the 49ers Santa Clara Levi's Stadium, and also the Warriors San Francisco Chase Center.

Critics claim that PLAs decrease the number of bidders, discourage non-union bidders, and raise construction costs.

What does the research reveal?

In 2016, University of Utah economist Peter Phillips published the most comprehensive study of PLAs for construction projects at California community colleges. His report examined seven

construction projects at the College of Marin between 2008-2015, four without PLAs and three with PLAs. The study also analyzed 175 community college construction projects without PLAs and 88 with PLAs. Phillips' report concludes that "PLAs do not reduce the number of bidders nor do they raise costs on California community college construction projects."

In 2011, researchers at the Cornell University School of Industrial Relations released a report that also found that PLAs do not drive-up costs for large public works projects but, in fact, can yield cost savings in the seasonal 'boom and bust' construction industry. PLAs ensure the timely completion of projects due to a steady supply of skilled labor, enhanced coordination between contractors, and fewer delays caused by worksite accidents or labor disputes. PLAs are also cost-effective because the high quality of work minimizes long-term maintenance costs and the need to fix costly mistakes.

Moreover, the Cornell study emphasized that PLAs contain costs and provide entry-level job opportunities in the construction industry by requiring workers enrolled in state-certified apprenticeship programs to perform at least 20 percent of the work.

By providing apprenticeship opportunities, PLAs directly address skyrocketing inequality and the 'hourglass' economy that concentrates job growth at the top and bottom of the labor market while squeezing the middle.

A five-year apprenticeship can offer North Bay low-income residents and unemployed workers a pathway to the middle class. For example, in 2022, a Sonoma County journeyman union electrician employed year-round earned

\$115,648 plus excellent medical and retirement benefits – and apprentices 'earn while they learn' with no tuition debt.

The North Bay Building Trades Council has developed a free ten-week pre-apprenticeship program that teaches the basic skills required to enter fourteen skilled trades apprenticeship programs. Construction unions collaborate with nonprofit organizations and local schools to prioritize recruiting low-income residents, disadvantaged youth, women, minorities, and veterans to the pre-apprenticeship program.

Finally, another 2011 study by the UCLA Institute for Research on Labor and Employment analyzed the public benefits of a 2003 PLA approved by the Los Angeles Unified School District, which spent \$8.7 billion for new construction and renovation between 2003-2010. That PLA included provisions mandating that 25 percent of the contractors be small businesses; that half the workforce must reside within the school district boundaries; that 30 percent of the workforce must be apprentices enrolled in certified apprenticeship programs (and recruited through pre-apprenticeship programs); and that the construction workforce must reflect the racial and ethnic diversity of the district.

PLAs are good public policy – for taxpayers, workers, and contractors! 🍷

Martin J. Bennett is an Instructor Emeritus of History at SRJC, a consultant for UNITE HERE Local 2, and a thirty-year Sonoma Valley resident. For more information about the North Bay Trades Introduction (pre-apprenticeship) program please contact Executive Director Frank Cuneo at: franksc8@gmail.com

Justice Coming for Undocumented Immigrants

by Renee Saucedo

On March 9, 2023, US Representatives Zoe Lofgren (CA), Norma Torres (CA), Grace Meng (NY), Lou Correa (CA), Adriano Espaillat (NY), and Jesús “Chuy” García (IL) reintroduced the “Renewing Immigration Provisions of the Immigration Act of 1929,” or “Registry Bill.” The bill, kept the same as last year’s Registry Bill, updates the 1929 law so that undocumented individuals may apply for legal permanent residency as long as they have lived in the country for at least seven years.

The registry, a provision of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), [has existed for nearly a century](#). It was first implemented by the [Registry Act of 1929](#) and permitted immigrants who had been continuously present in the United States since June 3, 1921, were of “good moral character,” and were not otherwise deportable, to apply for permanent resident status. Since then, the cutoff date for the registry has been updated only [four times](#), usually as part of comprehensive immigration reforms, but has not been updated since the Reagan era. The statute has also been modified in other ways.

Today, immigrant communities are pushing for the registry process to be updated by establishing a seven years presence eligibility in order to apply for a green card. Under the new bill, the 1929 Immigration Act would also incorporate a rolling component so that future legislation would not be required to update the registry, and undocumented people can apply after living in the US for seven years.

It is estimated that approximately eight million of the approximately eleven million undocumented people in the US will benefit under this new update of current law.

Nationally, the immigrant rights movement is divided on whether or not to prioritize continuing to push for “Immigration Reform” this year, in view of the Republican-dominated Congress. However, many immigrant rights organizations, especially those which have grassroots constituencies, believe that we must continue to organize around passage of just legalization policies. While legislation like the Registry Bill may not pass this year, it is important to continue to build community participation in the campaign, and to create the political climate needed to push forward pro-undocumented legislation. Immigrant communities continue to organize, not to achieve a fast win, but rather, to continue to build support for a just law which will offer an ongoing path to citizenship, a permanent solution to the current injustice.

Currently, the national campaign “Unlock Permanent Residence Through Registry,” based with the Coalition For Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA), is taking the lead coordinating the national campaign around the Registry Bill. Here in Sonoma County, organizations like ALMAS Libres/Raizes Collective and the North Bay Organizing Project (NBOP) are leading the Northern California Coalition For Just Immigration Reform, which involves organizations and unions in Sonoma, San Francisco, Humboldt, and the East Bay. Our local Coalition collaborates with CHIRLA, as well as other coalitions around the country, such as the Dignity Campaign and United 4 Immigration Reform.

The Northern California Coalition plans to hold regional



International Workers' Day Monday, May 1st

MARCH IN SOLIDARITY FOR IMMIGRANTS AND WORKERS RIGHTS

- PAPERS FOR ALL (UPDATE THE REGISTRY LAW)
- HEALTH AND SAFETY • RESPECT AND DIGNITY
- STOP THE VIOLENCE

**3 PM GATHER AT 777 SEBASTOPOL ROAD
BY MITOTE FOOD PARK IN ROSELAND, SANTA ROSA
MARCH TO THE FEDERAL BUILDING
777 SONOMA AVE. AT D ST. SANTA ROSA**

4 PM ACTION AT THE FEDERAL BUILDING

**5 PM MARCH FROM FED. BLDG. TO COURTHOUSE SQUARE
DOWNTOWN SANTA ROSA FOR A
RALLY WITH SPEAKERS AND MUSIC**




community forums on the “Registry Bill,” and 40-mile Walk on May 1. We’ll join groups at a national level to hold marches on August 8 and participate in a General Work Strike on August 9.

Why do immigrant communities continue to passionately organize around a legalization bill, despite the betrayals by the Democrats and the continued anti-immigrant sentiment? Undocumented immigrants explain their involvement and sacrifice the best. They and their families continue to greatly suffer due to the lack of opportunities to adjust their legal status. Mothers and fathers are unable to see the children they were forced to leave behind in their home countries.

People suffer emotional distress by not seeing their elderly parents before they die. They continue to suffer exploitation at work and remain vulnerable if they complain about work conditions. And they suffer a constant fear that law enforcement will discover them and deport them, forcibly separating them from family and loved ones living with them here.

Last year, Congress had various legislative options at the table, including the Renewing Immigration Provisions of the Immigration Act of 1929 (introduced in both chambers), the Dream and Promise Act (passed out of the House), Dream Act (introduced in the Senate), Farm Workforce Modernization Act (passed out of the House), Citizenship for Essential Workers (introduced in both chambers) and the US Citizenship Act (introduced in both chambers).

Immigrant communities overwhelmingly supported the bill related to the changing of the registry date, because it doesn’t include harmful policies like the expansion of temporary worker programs, more border and inland enforcement, and an increase in detention centers.

For more information, please see [ALMAS Libres on Facebook](#). 
Renee Saucedo is Coordinator of ALMAS Libres, of the Raizes Collective.

'EARTH DAY' IS A REMINDER THAT WE MUST COOPERATE
TO DEFEND LIFE ON OUR PLANET YEAR-ROUND

Take Action Now! Stop the Largest Oil Extraction Project Proposed on Federal Lands

by Varshini Prakash

President Biden approved the Willow Project – the single largest oil extraction project ever proposed on federal lands. When President Biden ran in 2020, he committed to end new oil and gas drilling on public lands and waters. This decision breaks that promise.

Instead of sticking to his own climate goals and listening to the people of the Village of Nuiqsut and the millions of us who got #StopWillow to nearly one billion views on TikTok, he let the fossil fuel industry win.

The Willow Project is a dangerous climate bomb – an \$8 billion fossil fuel infrastructure project in Alaska which would emit over 287 metric tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, threaten Indigenous Alaska Native communities and destroy wild landscapes north of the Arctic Circle.

We're living through an unprecedented climate crisis that will wreak havoc upon the lives of billions of people across the world, and for generations to come. We can't afford any more drilling on our land.

The decision on Willow is shameful and a devastating blow to our generation. And it's a reminder that the fossil fuel industry still

holds so much power over us and our future. But if we can build enough people power, we know that together, we can defeat them.

We refuse to sit back and accept Biden's decision to approve the Willow Project. Here are two ways to get involved – click:

- 1) **Call the White House comment line** and play the clip of President Biden saying "No more drilling on federal lands" for them using this tool! Let's remind him of the promises he made to voters in 2020. There's still time for President Biden to walk back his decision and declare a climate emergency.
- 2) Fund our latest organizing programs: **Green New Deal for Schools and for Communities**. Although yesterday's approval was a win for Big Oil, our programs are already organizing to take them down and bring the power of the Green New Deal to every corner of the country.

We are the generation of a Green New Deal and we will keep fighting for our planet and our futures. ✊

Varshini Prakash is a United States climate activist and executive director of the Sunrise Movement.

Five Highly Recommended Films About Plant-Based Diets

by George Romandy

April 22 marks the 54th anniversary of the first Earth Day, which makes us wonder, how do we keep our planet sustainable, given the ravages of climate change, with the accompanying problems such as droughts, forest fires, and flooding?

Fortunately, millions of people have discovered something that they can do to keep climate change from turning into a climate catastrophe. By watching the following videos, you will see that simply changing what you eat every day can make a huge difference by producing far less greenhouse gas than the world now produces. By following a whole-food, plant-based diet – beans, grains, fruits, vegetables, nuts – we should be on our way to creating a more sustainable planet. This would save the soil, the water, and our health, and would also save billions of animals from suffering.

People ask, "Where do I get my protein without meat or dairy?" But in fact, a whole-food, plant-based diet is recommended by all of the doctors in the films that are listed below. Properly planned plant-based diets are recognized as appropriate for all stages of life, including infancy and pregnancy, by the American Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, British Dietetic Association, and the American Heart Association.

There is one important caveat: It is important to take B-12 supplements while on such a diet – a fact that has resulted in claims of "debunking" the diet as "unnatural," or "incomplete," but which really is merely a matter of how modern pesticides and industrial cleaning have eliminated the tiny bugs and bacteria that

historically provided B-12 by being present on food. Dr. Michael Greger discusses B-12 dosages on nutritionfacts.org, based on age, frequency of dosage, etc.

The following are five great films to watch for Earth Day. I give a short synopsis of each below, after each title listed, as well as where to watch the film.

1. **Cowspiracy** (Available on YouTube, Netflix, Amazon Video) Synopsis: This film explores the impact of animal agriculture on the environment.
2. **Seaspiracy** (Available on Netflix, Amazon Video). Synopsis: Examines human effects on marine life, and advocates ending seafood consumption. Warning: Contains graphic scenes of animal cruelty.
3. **What the Health** (Available on YouTube, Netflix, Amazon Video). Synopsis: Filmed in large part here in Sonoma County, home of the *Peace Press*, this is a film about preventing and reversing chronic illness by eating a plant-based diet.
4. **The Game Changers** (Available on YouTube, Netflix, Amazon Video). Synopsis: Film about top-level athletes who follow plant-based diets. Executive producers include James Cameron, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Pamela Anderson, Rip Esselstyn, Jackie Chan and Brendan Brazier.
5. **Eating You Alive** (Available on YouTube, Amazon Video) Synopsis: This film about health and wellness includes many doctors' views on plant-based diets.

Here's to your good health, the health of the animals and our planet! Note, this article is not intended to provide medical advice. ✊

US Military – A Massive, Hidden Contributor to the Climate Crisis

by *The Conversation*

The US military is “one of the largest polluters in history, consuming more liquid fuels and emitting more climate-changing gases than most medium-sized countries,” Benjamin Neimark, Oliver Belcher, and Patrick Bigger reported for *The Conversation* in June 2019. By burning fossil fuels, the US military emitted more than 25,000 kilotons of carbon dioxide in 2017. If the US military were a country, they wrote, its fuel usage would make it “the 47th largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the world.”

[Note: The US military’s status as the world’s worst polluter was story #2 on *Censored 2011*’s top 25 list; see “[US Department of Defense is the Worst Polluter on the Planet](#),” in *Censored 2011*:

examined how US military supply chains impact the world’s climate, by analyzing bulk fuel purchases, as documented by the US Defense Logistics Agency–Energy (DLA-E). A sub-agency of the US Department of Defense, the DLA-E manages “the US military’s supply chains, including its hydrocarbon fuel purchases and distribution.” The authors obtained data on US military fuel purchases through multiple Freedom of Information Act requests to the DLA-E.

“It’s very difficult to get consistent data from the Pentagon and across US government departments,” Neimark, Belcher, and Bigger wrote. A loophole in the 1997 Kyoto Protocol exempted the United States from reporting military emissions. Although the Paris Accord

closed this loophole, they noted that, “with the Trump administration due to withdraw from the accord in 2020, this gap...will return.”

Nevertheless, based on the data they were able to analyze, the authors in the *Transactions* article concluded that if “the US military were a country, it would nestle between Peru and Portugal in the global league table of fuel purchasing,” going on to observe that the military’s carbon emissions for 2014 were “roughly equivalent to total – not just fuel – emissions from Romania.”

Moreover, Neimark, Belcher, and Bigger found that US “forward operating bases” (FOBs) located

in Afghanistan and other overseas theaters of operations have enormous fuel requirements and spew huge amounts of carbon into the atmosphere. They wrote that “a single US Marine Corp brigade operating across... a network of FOBs requires over 500,000 gallons of fuel per day.”

Noting that “action on climate change demands shuttering vast sections of the military machine,” They recommended that “money spent procuring and distributing fuel across the US empire” be reinvested as “a peace dividend, helping to fund a Green New Deal in whatever form it might take.”

[The Conversation](#) is a network of not-for-profit media outlets publishing news stories and research reports online, with accompanying expert opinion and analysis.

Student Researcher: Fabiola Gregg, Faculty Evaluator; Jennifer Levinson. (City College of San Francisco). 🌱



Peace and environmental activists brought the question of the role of the military in causing climate change to the fore even while it was ignored by the official COP26 summit. Photo: Abby Martin

The Top 25 Censored Stories of 2009–10, eds. Mickey Huff, Peter Phillips, and Project Censored (New York: Seven Stories Press, 2010), 15–24. For a synopsis and update of Project Censored’s original story, see Chapter 2 of [State of the Free Press | 2021](#).]

Noting that studies of greenhouse gas emissions usually focus on how much energy and fuel civilians use, Neimark, Belcher, and Bigger wrote that US military emissions “tend to be overlooked in climate change studies.” Nevertheless, they reported, “Significant reductions to the Pentagon’s budget and shrinking its capacity to wage war would cause a huge drop in demand from the biggest consumer of liquid fuels in the world.”

This report for *The Conversation* summarized key findings from a research article they wrote with Cara Kennelly and [published in the *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*](#), a peer-reviewed academic journal, in June 2019. In the study, they

Who Bombed the Nord Stream Pipelines?

by Barry Barnett

How were Russia's Nord Stream pipelines ruptured and severely damaged? Did Russia actually sabotage its own natural gas lines?

At NS1's original 2006-2012 construction, Greenpeace's Russian office, and the Red Book (endangered species) of the Russian Federation itself, listed several plant species as threatened (which were subsequently destroyed), as well as eagles and other bird life disturbed or completely fled from their habitats.

Nord Stream 1 and 2 were each constructed to transport 55 billion cubic meters (1.95 trillion cubic feet) of Russian natural gas (methane) per year to Germany under the Baltic Sea. Environmentalists and organizations from the start feared the ecological threat it posed to the Kurgalsky Nature Reserve and to the Baltic Sea.

The US Empire had its back up as well, for "security" reasons (read "competition"). In 2020, Pres. Trump increased Russian sanctions and asset freezes of entities associated with Nord Stream.

The etymology is "nord," German for "north," and "stream" in English: North Stream.

On Feb. 7, 2022, President Biden warned (threatened) Russia, that if it invades Ukraine, "there will no longer be a Nord Stream. We will bring an end to it."

On Feb. 24, 2022, Russia did invade Ukraine - "unprovoked" (!?), as Western media have stated ad infinitum/ad nauseam. (See *Peace Press* Apr/May, Jun/Jul, Aug/Sep 2022 for a different view, in my 3 part series, "The Truth About the Ukraine Crisis.")

Nord Stream 1 runs from NW Russia near Finland, Nord Stream 2 from NW Russia near Estonia, and both terminate at Lubmin, Germany. They each have two pipes, 1224 km (760 mi) long.

On Sept. 26, 2022, multiple ruptures were detected: one leak in NS2 and two in NS1. Gas transmission dropped to nearly zero.

Secretary of Hate, I mean State, Antony Blinken remarked, "It's a tremendous opportunity to once and for all remove the dependence on Russian energy and thus take away from Vladimir Putin the weaponization of energy as a means of advancing his imperial designs." (Of course, the United States has never admitted to being an empire.) Victoria Nuland made a similar statement.

The very next day, coincidentally, the Baltic Pipeline opened for natural gas from the North Sea.

With the US twisting European nations' arms to end buying gas from Russia, energy prices are skyrocketing as the flow is stopped or reduced, while new pipelines are built so supply is controlled by the US – for its profit and hegemony.

Fortunately, one of the Nord Stream 2 pipes remains operational. Only three of the pipes were ruptured – one was missed by the saboteurs.

US and Western propaganda, I mean media, immediately broadcast two seemingly conflicting reports: that there was sabotage, but the cause was unknown and being investigated (by the Americans); and that Russia destroyed its own pipelines.

Subsequent investigation by Baltic states Sweden and Denmark proved that both British and American naval vessels had been in the same area at the same time as the ruptures; and that bombs caused the extensive damage.

Of course, open gas pipes are also extremely bad for the environment. 300,000 tons of methane were released into the atmosphere, according to Seymour Hersh (see below). Russian losses are estimated at \$23 billion, with European countries forced to buy mainly American gas, at 3x the price - which was the US plan.

But US-initiated Western sanctions on Russia seem to have backfired. Russia has acquired help from China, Iran and Belarus, while energy prices have also skyrocketed in America. Worse, wrangling over Russian natural gas supply and pricing reduced or curtailed the ability to heat homes this past winter in some European countries. Some nations, like Hungary, Bulgaria, and Serbia, have continued buying gas from Russia, ignoring US sanctions.

With the US twisting European nations' arms to end buying gas from Russia, energy prices are skyrocketing as the flow is stopped or reduced, while new pipelines are built so supply is controlled by the US – for its profit and hegemony.

Reportedly, Europe will not be able to sufficiently replace the loss of Russian gas with American, and will need to find other sources and reduce demand. They are still buying some Russian gas through India.

Officials who urged an end to US (illegal)* sanctions are from Hungary, Switzerland, Greece, and 13 other nations – even the US, UK, Ukraine, and the European Council.

*Sanctions are illegal according to international law unless approved by the UN Security Council.

Since highly regarded veteran reporter Seymour Hersh wrote his bombshell exposé on the US role in its war crime – with much help from Norway – there have been widespread calls by many governments, agencies, and political and environmental activists, for a swift, independent investigation. Banners in France and various other countries in protest marches proclaim the outrage at this blatant violation of sovereignty and economic and ecological destruction, also featuring calls for an end to NATO and removal of US nuclear weapons from Europe.

Subsequent to Hersh's article, the US broadcast a version purporting that several people on a sailboat bombed the pipelines, and two left their passports on the boat! – but their identities are not being disclosed (of course). This ridiculous propaganda is not believable, since the pipes are submerged and covered in concrete – a major operation.

Nord Stream Pipelines...see page 14

A History of US Forever Wars

by Susan Lamont

The world today is no more stable as a result of these forever wars than it was a century ago. It's time to find a better way. To cover this subject adequately would require many pages.

Question: How many countries has the United States bombed, attacked or participated in coups in since World War II?

Answer: China (1945-46 & 1950-53), Korea (1950-53), Iran (1953), Guatemala (1954, 1960, 1967-69), Indonesia (1958), Cuba (1959-60), Congo (1964), Peru (1965), Laos (1964-73), Vietnam (1961-73), Democratic Republic of the Congo (1961), Cambodia (1969-70), Grenada (1983), Libya (1986, 2011-present), El Salvador (all of the 1980's), Nicaragua (all of the 1980's), Panama (1989), Iraq (1991-2021, 2,500 troops remain), Sudan (1998), Afghanistan (1998, 2001-2021), Yugoslavia (1999), Ukraine (2004, 2014), Yemen (2015-present) Because of space restrictions, this list is incomplete. US war and sanctions have killed 4-6 million people in Iraq since 1991, including 500,000 children by sanctions alone.

Question: Who suffers the most from war?

Answer: During World War I, 10% of casualties were civilians. During World War II, 50% of casualties were civilians. During the Vietnam War, 70% of casualties were civilians. During the Iraq War, 90% of casualties were civilians.

Question: What is the worldwide military footprint of the United States, Russia and China?

Answer: The United States has about 800 bases in 80 countries and troops in 159 countries. Russia has 21 bases mostly in former Soviet republics. China has 1 base in Djibouti. The United States sells 37% of the world's arms (Lockheed Martin, Boeing & Raytheon account for 2/3 of the total), Russia for 20% and China for 6%.

Question: What are a few of the continuing tragedies in Vietnam as a result of the undeclared war begun by France and continued by the US?

Answer: Unexploded US cluster bombs continue to kill and maim the Vietnamese people, including children. Birth defects from Agent Orange in the water and soil continue down through the generations. It's a war that never really ended.

Question: Iraq is in chaos and the United States did not achieve its stated goals there. Who did profit?

Answer: The L. Paul Bremer plan for the economy of Iraq (written before the invasion) was written for US multinational corporations, not reconstruction. Within the first few years of the war, 150 corporations had received \$50 billion in contracts. These corporations were not required to give Iraq a single penny nor hire Iraqi workers. Because the US is not a signatory to the Geneva Conventions, all requirements for an occupying country were ignored. That \$50 billion does not include weapons manufacturers and does not include contracts after 2006.

Question: How many people died in Iraq due to sanctions imposed by President Bill Clinton? What is the role of the United Nations regarding sanctions?

Answer: 1-1/2 million people died from the sanctions. The U.N. Security Council is mandated to assess the impact of sanctions on civilians. The US refuses to allow this oversight to occur. The US has sanctions against 19 countries.

Question: What is one of the lies of the war in Ukraine?

Answer: The Minsk Accords promised to facilitate a way to semi-autonomy for the Donbass and Crimea. Zelensky campaigned on a promise of implementing the Accords. He did not. Russia requested negotiations on the topic several times and was rebuffed. Several months ago, Angela Merkel admitted that the Accords were a ruse to give the US and NATO time to arm and train the Ukrainian military. 100,000 troops were trained during that period. Zelensky's promise was a lie.

Question: Who has profited from the war in Ukraine?

Answer: US fossil fuel companies have stepped in to replace Russia in supplying Europe. They have been able to raise their prices without limits and, more importantly, any of the feeble attempts to convert to renewables have taken a back seat to opening ecologically sensitive areas to oil drilling. BlackRock profits from weapons sales and has a contract to rebuild from the damage done by those weapons.

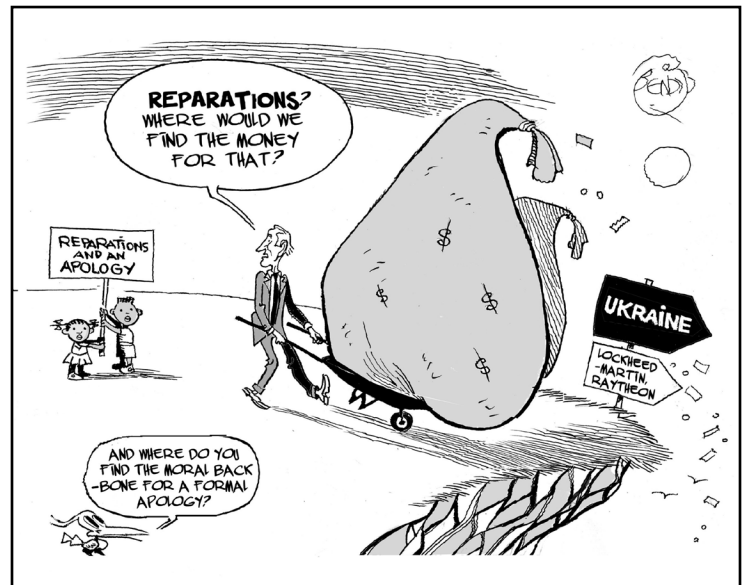
"When will our conscience grow so tender that we will act to prevent human misery rather than avenge it?" –Eleanor Roosevelt



Sonoma County Commission on Human Rights

The purpose of the Commission on Human Rights is to promote better human relations among all people in Sonoma County through education, mediation, cooperation with County and community agencies, and by initiating action that fosters the recognition of and an appreciation for the cultural diversity of the community.

Monthly meetings on the 4th Tuesday. [See schedule here.](#)
Email: chr@sonoma-county.org • [Website](#)



US/NATO Responsible for Continuation of War in Ukraine

by *The Party of Socialism and Liberation*

Today [written Feb. 24, 2023] marks one year since Russia's military forces directly intervened into Ukraine – a devastating conflict that has caused tens of thousands of deaths, destabilized the world, and forced millions to flee their homes. Invariably across corporate media outlets today Russia is treated as the sole villain and initiator of the war. But a look at what has actually transpired since February 2022 reveals that the conflict is dragging on into its second year because the United States wants it to.

Biden's personal visit to Ukrainian president Zelensky on the eve of the anniversary of the war is a clear sign that the United States intends to cement Ukraine as part of a sphere of US influence on Russia's borders. Without constant US/NATO escalation, the war could have ended long ago with peace talks and a new security arrangement that demilitarizes the region – something that would have also prevented the war in the first place.

After the United States and its allies refused over and over to negotiate on existential security concerns like the expansion of NATO membership to countries on Russia's border and the deployment of advanced missile systems to Eastern Europe, Russia launched the invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022.

After the United States and its allies refused over and over to negotiate on existential security concerns like the expansion of NATO membership to countries on Russia's border and the deployment of advanced missile systems to Eastern Europe, Russia launched the invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022. Russia may have expected the Ukrainian government to collapse in the opening days of the war and for a new government advocating neutrality to take its place, but it remained intact and its backers in the West swiftly moved to turn the conflict into a proxy war. Comprehensive sanctions were imposed on Russia in an effort to lock the country out of the world market and cause an economic collapse.

The basic logic was that the longer the war drags on, the greater the human and economic cost to Russia, and therefore the more likely it is that the United States will achieve its long-standing goal of overthrowing the Russian government (or at least severely diminishing its power). "We want to see Russia weakened," Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin openly stated in April after a visit to Kiev.

Just two weeks after the war began, US Congress passed a massive aid package for Ukraine totaling \$13.6 billion. Part of this money was directed towards financing essential functions of the Ukrainian government and shoring up the economy, and another part of roughly equivalent size consisted of military support. But this first installment paled in comparison with the package passed

two months later, which amounted to \$40 billion and was again split between economic and military aid. Alongside smaller but still substantial military aid commitments from its junior imperialist partners in the NATO alliance, this was a clear signal that the major Western powers were prepared to provide virtually unlimited support to prop up Ukraine for as long as they possibly could.

The largest appropriation of military aid came in December, when approximately \$47 billion was budgeted to keep the war going. In total, over \$100 billion had been committed by the US government to the proxy war against Russia in a steady stream of escalations that sabotaged any hopes for peace.

This enormous sum of money is pocketed by US-based arms manufacturing corporations, whose fabulously wealthy executives profit from death and destruction. Meanwhile, dire social problems in the United States go unaddressed.

US/NATO escalation came not only in the form of ever-

increasing amounts of aid, it also involved more and more powerful types of weaponry as the fighting went on. As Russia's opening offensive of the war stalled, instead of taking the opportunity to negotiate peace, US officials pressed Ukraine to launch major counter-offensives. Central to this was the delivery of an advanced missile system called the HIMARS (High Mobility Artillery Rocket System) in the beginning of the summer. Despite Russia's warnings that the delivery of missiles to Ukraine capable of striking Russian territory would

be viewed as a grave deepening of the crisis, the United States did just that less than one month ago when it announced the shipment of a weapon called the "ground-launched small-diameter bomb." GLSDBs double the range of existing Ukrainian missiles.

When it came to the delivery of tanks, even Washington's NATO allies were reluctant. But an intense lobbying campaign primarily directed at the government of Germany succeeded at the end of January – both German-made and US tanks are now on their way to the battlefield in Ukraine. Immediately following their success with tank deliveries, the most hardline elements in the West began to push to go even further and send fighter jets. This is not the behavior of people who have even the slightest interest in a peaceful resolution.

The war appears to have, at least for now, settled into a grinding stalemate where neither side is able to make a major breakthrough. But the US government insists on keeping the slaughter going. Their strategic doctrine is "great power competition" – that the two principal obstacles standing between the United States and world domination are Russia and China. If the war continuing means that there is a chance that they could achieve one of their two central goals by weakening or overthrowing the Russian government, then the number of lives lost and upended are of no consequence

US/NATO Responsible...see page 14

How to Become a Palestine Activist

by Lois Pearlman

For those who support Palestine, whether actively or just in their hearts, this is a watershed moment. For the first time in known history more Democratic voters sympathize Palestine than Israel, according to a recent Gallup poll. That's 49 percent of Democrats who view the Palestinian cause as righteous as opposed to 38 percent who still favor Israel – an increase of 11 percent over last year.

What brought about this miraculous turn of events? Nov. 1 Israeli voters elected that country's most ultra right wing government ever – a coalition government rife with ultra nationalist and fundamental orthodox Jews who would put evangelical Christians to shame.

As a result Israelis of more moderate persuasions have taken to the streets by the hundreds of thousands and many American Jews who have always supported Israel – right or wrong – are taking a long second look. Many Jewish Israelis in the Knesset, the Israeli parliament, have pledged not to participate in a final vote on overturning their country's judiciary system, which would make it a puppet of the legislative and executive branches, army reservists are quitting en masse, tech companies and venture capitalists are relocating in droves and artists, intellectuals, writers, and even some mainstream Jewish organizations are telling world leaders to shun Israeli officials, including Benjamin Netanyahu.

Things are happening quickly, tiny cracks are appearing in the solid wall of American and Jewish support for Israel, and the light is beginning to shine through. So now is a better time than ever to learn more about the Palestine/Israel situation and even consider becoming a Palestine supporter. Here are some you can go about doing that.

First, I highly recommend getting a solid footing in how the Palestinian region became the state of Israel and the occupied territories. There are many wonderful books about this region, written by talented Palestinians, Israelis and others, but the absolute bible that dispels many of the myths we have been spoon-fed by the Israeli propaganda machine, and tells about the origins of the situation, is Ilan Pape's "The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine." Pape is an ex-patriot Jewish Israeli and a professor, but the book is written in easy to understand language, not academic gobbledygook.

Locally there is a group called the North Coast Coalition for Palestine, which has both a website and a Facebook page that is updated every day. The group also hosts a radio show called Speaking of Palestine, broadcast live the first and third Mondays of each month, and rebroadcast on alternate Mondays, from 4 to 5 p.m. on KBBF-FM, 89.1. You can also catch a rebroadcast, in Bodega and Bodega Bay only, on KRJF-FM, 92.6, Tuesdays from 8 to 9 p.m. You can also stream the show on either station from anywhere in the world.

Then there are several free online magazines that provide up-to-date news about that part of the world. Some of my favorites are Mondoweiss, from the US (mondoweiss.net), +972 Magazine from Israel and written by Palestinians, Israelis and internationals (972mag.com) and the Electronic Intifada (electronicintifada.net), also from the US, but founded and edited by a Palestinian. You can subscribe to all of these and more for free, but of course

they accept donations, and you should send money to these useful sources if you can.

Some anti-occupation organizations with informative websites, that also offer ways you can get involved are the Christian-based Friends of Sabeel North America (fosna.org), the Jewish-based Jewish Voice for Peace (jewishvoiceforpeace.org) and the Boycott and Divestment Movement (bdsmovement.net) For more information about BDS see Rebel Fagin's piece about BDS also in this issue of the *Peace Press*.

Once you begin subscribing to these online sites and organizations, especially if you make a donation, you will find your computer in box flooded with petitions and even more information. Somehow I have started receiving up-dates from the Refuser Support Network, an organization that supports young Israelis who refuse to serve in the Israeli military because it serves to maintain the occupation of Palestinian lands. And I am happy to read the brave and inspiring stories of these true Israeli heroes, who usually serve time in jail for their efforts.

Of course you are likely to get a lot of your news from the

Things are happening quickly, tiny cracks are appearing in the solid wall of American and Jewish support for Israel, and the light is beginning to shine through.

corporate media, which usually takes an Israeli perspective on news stories from that region. For that reason it is important to read with a discriminating eye, doing your best to determine if what you are reading is accurate and balanced. And, of course, when you determine that it isn't you could consider writing a letter to the editor and offering another side of the story.

Another way to spread the word about Palestine, which people often overlook, is talking with friends and family. But when you do, tread gently. Maybe lead into the subject by asking if your friend or relative has been following the news about the new Israeli government and reactions to it, both in Israel and in the US. If they respond positively to this you might then suggest that while it is tragic that Israelis are now having their human rights threatened by their own government, this is exactly what has been happening to Palestinians since the creation of Israel in 1948. You might find a lot of resistance, but you might also be surprised that people are interested in learning more.

And don't forget about your elected officials. If you learn about anti-boycott legislation that has been introduced, call your congress member or state legislator and tell them you oppose it. And sometimes a progressive member of the legislature will introduce something favorable to the Palestinian cause, such as conditioning aid to Israel on its human rights behavior. When that happens, call your elected officials and tell them to support it. And never forget to thank them when they vote the way you requested.

Finally, if you are ready to take the big leap and travel to

Palestine Activist...see page 12

BDS Basics for Palestine

by Rebel Fagin

The Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement, BDS, holds the simple principle that Palestinians are entitled to the same rights as the rest of humanity. BDS urges economic actions to pressure Israel into complying with international law. BDS was founded in 2005 by Palestinian civil society: 170 Palestinian unions, refugee networks, women's organizations, professional organizations, popular resistance committees and Palestinian civil society bodies. Since its inception it has grown into a vibrant global movement consisting of unions, academic associations, churches, and grassroots movements around the world.

For over 70 years Israel has denied Palestinians their basic rights as they flaunt international laws. This is made possible by support from foreign countries, most notably the United States' government, corporations and institutes. Under capitalism, corporations are vulnerable to economic pressure and when they bleed enough, they force governments and institutes to change their behavior. Look at the 1955/1956 Montgomery Bus Boycott for example. This consumer boycott cost the merchants of downtown Montgomery a fortune. They pressured the local government to rescind their back-of-the-bus law. The fulcrum for change was the money.

BDS picks targets based on 3 principles: 1) their level of complicity in the occupations, 2) the potential for forming cross-issue coalitions with other groups against a common target, 3) how likely it is that the campaign will succeed. Success may mean a company withdraws its support for the Israeli occupation or it may mean getting more supporters involved with BDS. It takes strategic planning as corporations vulnerabilities shift from time to time.

This isn't just about what hummus you buy, but also where your retirement funds are invested. Boycotts can involve academic groups that legitimize the occupation or cultural and entertainment providers who normalize the occupation. Here are some definitions.

Boycotts. Withdraw support from Israel's apartheid regime, complicit Israeli sporting, cultural and academic institutes and from all Israeli and international companies engaged in violations of human rights.

Divestment. Urge banks, local councils, churches, pension funds, and universities to withdraw investments from the state of Israel and all international companies that sustain Israeli apartheid.

Sanctions. Campaigns to pressure governments to fulfil their legal obligations to end Israeli apartheid and not aid or assist it's maintenance by banning business with Israel's illegal settlements, ending military trade and free-trade agreements, as well as suspending Israel's membership in international forums such as UN bodies and FIFA (football).

The Goals:

1) End the occupation and colonization of all Arab lands and dismantle the Wall. International law recognizes the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, Gaza and the Syrian Golan Heights as lands occupied by Israel. After stealing land, Israel forces Palestinian civilians to live in ghettos – multi-generational refugee camps that are surrounded by checkpoints and settlements with their violent patrols, watchtowers and the illegal apartheid wall. Israel has turned Gaza into the world's largest, open-air prison. Israel regularly launches military assaults on Gaza which they refer to as "cutting

the lawn". All of these acts are prosecutable war crimes.

2) Recognize the fundamental rights of the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel, about 20% of the population, to full equality. All people in Israel have citizenship but only Jews have Israeli nationality and the privileges that go with it. Countless checkpoints and over 50 racial discriminatory laws impact Arab-Palestinians of Israel. The Israeli government forcibly displaces communities in Israel from their lands and, now more than ever, they routinely incite racial violence against Palestinian-Arab Israelis. This is apartheid.

3) Respecting, protecting and promoting the rights of Palestinians to return to their homes as stipulated in UN Resolution 194. In 1948 when Jewish troops invaded Palestine, many civilians fled under the long-practiced belief that when the violence ended, they could return home. This belief is known of as "the right to return" and is further codified in Article 13 of the UN Declaration of Human Rights. Now more than 7.25 million overseas Palestinians are denied the right to return home while Jews from anywhere in the world can call Israel home.

Thanks to strategic campaigns, the impact of the BDS movement is increasing substantially from G4S security forces losing dozens of contracts, a boycott of Israeli dates, a 46% drop in direct foreign investments in Israel from government funds in Chile, Kuwait; many local communities in Europe, Oakland dockworkers, the University of Johannesburg, 30 US student associations, pension funds from Sweden, Norway, Holland, New Zealand, and Luxembourg, major churches, academic associations, all are part of the BDS movement and you can be too. Simply go to bdsmovement.net to learn all about it and what you can do to bring about justice in Palestine.

You can also learn more about what's going on with the Palestinian struggle for justice by listening to *Speaking of Palestine* which airs Mondays from 4-5 on KBBF, 89.1 fm or kbbf online and Tuesdays from 8-9 on KRJF, 92.3 fm or at krjf. Other great sources include, electronic intifada at electronicintifada and at mondoweiss and at 972mag. Educate yourself, tell others and bring justice to the people of Palestine. 🌿

Palestine Activist... from page 11

Palestine, here are two suggestions for group visits. Eyewitness Palestine is a private nonprofit that conducts both in-person and virtual tours of Palestine, and provides some scholarships for those who cannot afford the trips on their own. The Center for Jewish Non Violence (cjni.org) offers trips to Palestine that include working on specific nonviolent actions with Palestinians. Here's what a local activist had to say about his experience with that group.

"True to its promise, the activities we engaged in were all planned in concert with Palestinian partners. We learned, we worked and we shared meals with our Palestinian hosts. Finally, we joined in a direct action to repair a road vital to travel in the South Hebron Hills. I found the nine days of the delegation to be incredibly meaningful. I came away with renewed respect for the strength and spirit of the Palestinian resistance, as well as the commitment of the members of the delegation." 🌿

They Only Call It Class Warfare When We Fight Back

by Susan Collier Lamont

If a soul is left in the darkness, sins will be committed. The guilty one is not he who commits the sin, but he who causes the darkness.

– Victor Hugo

The threats to our financial well being keep coming at us fast and furiously. Whether it's the cost of filling up your tank or heating your home; whether it's inflation more generally and the "news" that it's the fault of workers and retirees; whether it's the claim of a politician that they are a "friend of labor" while they work to weaken unions; whether your tax dollars are bailing out another bank, it's difficult not to just throw up one's hands and give up.

Even the rise of smash and grab thefts and more violent crime is your fault. The general population is just so full of criminals, if you believe the media, your police chief or your elected representative.

Talking about our local sheriff may seem a little far afield in a discussion of the economy, but bear with me. January I attended the swearing-in ceremony of our new sheriff, Eddie Engram. He claims that one of the problems he faces is an increase in crime. His solution – no surprise – is a bigger budget and more officers to arrest and incarcerate the perpetrators.

When Engram campaigned for his position, he always mentioned growing up in poor communities and living with the crime in those communities. This led to his choice of a career in law enforcement. Like too many people, Engram looks to punitive "solutions" rather than helpful ones. Unlike Victor Hugo, Engram places the blame on the wrong people. Given a limited pool of tax money, he favors "defunding" social programs in order to super-fund punishment. He doesn't phrase it that way, but that's the result.

Putting aside for the moment that the federal government is the gold standard for violent solutions, and that such violence is being modeled in the larger society, most "crime" is the result of desperation and despair. I put "crime" in quotes because the greatest crimes, in value and scope, are committed by the wealthy. They aren't called crimes because they have been legalized by those who write the laws.

Here are some facts:

Oxfam has reported that food and energy companies doubled their profits last year and paid \$257 billion to shareholders, while around the globe 800 million people went to bed hungry. Whose fault is this? Yours! It's all because you got a tiny wage increase – finally – but it certainly has nothing to do with those profits. Who says so? Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell, and no one is going to contradict him. Read the financial section of any newspaper and it's wage "inflation" that is being discussed.

Oxfam also reports that, over the past two years, for every dollar gained by an individual in the bottom 90 percent, a billionaire (there are 2,600 globally) gained \$1.7 million. That's \$26 trillion going to the top one percent. And, yes, it's still your fault. Surely, you're not trying hard enough. Maybe you're even lazy.

"While ordinary people are making daily sacrifices on essentials like food, the super-rich have outdone even their wildest dreams... a roaring '20's boom for the world's richest," said Gabriela Bucher, executive director of Oxfam.

And we all know where that "roaring '20's boom" led. Which brings us to the current bank failures. Led by former chief executive and chairman of Citigroup, and now Press Democrat minority-owner, Sandy Weill, protections from some of the riskier banking

ventures were removed with the ending of the Glass-Steagall Act. What we saw a dozen years ago, that a couple of financial institutions were allowed to fail in order to make bailing out the rest seem like common sense, may be about to be repeated.

I'm definitely not the one to try to explain the current situation – quantitative easing, asset valuations, bond prices, etc., etc. But it has all been aggravated by Powell's decision to raise interest rates to counteract any gains made by the working class. He has been very clear that he believes we're the problem. It's classic class warfare. Inflation is to be cured on the backs of workers by reducing their buying power and "stabilizing" their wages and certainly not by enacting a windfall profits tax or even mentioning the vast sums of money being funneled to the already wealthy.

Jerome Powell has said that he understands the pain we little people are going through, but gee whiz, it just can't be helped. We need "to restore balance." What does that mean? Reduce your wages. Increase unemployment.

In his eagerness to sock it to us by raising interest rates, he forgot one thing. Higher interest rates are also adversely affecting

This society will have you angrier at an unhoused person stealing \$5 to eat than at a guy in a suit stealing \$5 million to buy a third house.

the banks and their deposit liabilities and asset valuations because Congress never righted the wrongs that led to the Great Recession. The wealthy still get to play at the casino where, no matter the risks they take, they can't lose because we'll pay the house.

And propaganda will be used to convince you that it can be no other way. There are many forms of power, but possibly the greatest power of all is the one that causes people to believe that there is no other way than the current way, no other option, and that it's just the natural order of things. What's the point of looking for alternatives when there aren't any?

So, as you struggle, you'll be quick to assume that those petty criminals out there are the problem and that your local sheriff definitely needs a bigger budget. This society will have you angrier at an unhoused person stealing \$5 to eat than at a guy in a suit stealing \$5 million to buy a third house. Or at Jerome Powell and the corporations he protects, who just stole 150 percent of the wage increase you finally received.

What to do? Learn what propaganda looks like. Question everything that comes from a mainstream economist or pundit. Determine what is coming at you through the lens of the rich. With corporate media, that's pretty much everything. Understand who is causing the darkness. Demand that your local government treat the disease, not the symptoms. Think from the bottom up, not the top down. Understand who profits. And then organize or support those who are organizing. Labor organizing done right – again, from the bottom up – may be our most valuable tool and our best hope. Be prepared to wage class warfare. To echo some graffiti I saw on a city street, "They have millions, but we are millions." 🍀

Restorative Justice... *from page 1*

from something much greater than a lack of policing. If we hope to prioritize the well-being of the youth, we must first ensure that the youth are well. Rather than investing their more energy and finances into SROs, students believe the schools should reallocate the money into services which focus on mental health, wellness, and restorative justice. for students.

The Restorative Justice Program, which began as a pilot program in 2013, utilizes the skills of restorative specialists to ultimately practice harm-reduction in schools by helping students to de-escalate altercations, take accountability, and maintain a safe and respectful environment. The implementation of restorative services have resulted in a decrease in suspensions and expulsions across the board, as well as reduction in racially disproportionate discipline practices. While this program has proven to be extremely effective, it has also functioned both undervalued and underfunded. Students believe that it's time for this to change.

In coming weeks, the LSC will continue to gather the students and parents of Santa Rosa City Schools to assist in mobilizing and actualizing the change which they hope to see come to fruition. While a one-day meeting sparked these community wide conversations, the conversations will likely continue to take place for weeks and months to come. The youth have begun their research, they've defined their demands, and they are ready to be heard. Now it is up to the adults within the community (parents, teachers, and administrators alike) to listen. As students continue to gather and rally, walking out of class and marching off of their campuses while chanting, "Who keeps us safe?" we must reframe the question at hand and ask ourselves, "Who keeps us safe?" we must reframe the question at hand and ask ourselves, "will we – your friends, parents, educators, neighbors – do our part to keep you safe?"

Stay up to date on upcoming events, student-organized actions, and community trainings by following [NBOP on Instagram](#) also [Latinx Student Congress](#) and [Value Life, Not Violence](#) 🙌

Nord Stream Pipelines... *from page 8*

I urge all readers to contact US representatives on all levels, including Pres. Biden, urging an immediate impartial investigation, as I have done – and as a number of American officials have done, too.

Sources: Sanctions, Security and the Nord Stream 2 Pipeline, Binoy Kampmark, CounterPunch 12/27/19; Wikipedia, 2022 Nord Stream pipeline sabotage; Biden says Nord Stream 2 won't go forward if Russia invades, but German Chancellor demurs, Christina Wilkie and Amanda Macias, CNBC 2/7/22; Russia accuses UK of 'directing' Nord Stream blasts, Al Jazeera 11/1/22; KPFA News, 9/22-2/23; Reporter Seymour Hersh on "How America Took Out the Nord Stream Pipeline," Democracy Now! 2/15/23. 🙌

Barry Barnett is a progressive author and activist, health professional, and musician, living on the left coast of the US Empire. His writing is on [counterpunch.org/archives/author's name](https://counterpunch.org/archives/author), and on his website, with ~100 political and environmental articles, animal rights, poetry, political fantasy stories, and much satire/humor, at Patreon.com/BarryBarnett.

US/NATO Responsible... *from page 10*

whatsoever to the Pentagon war makers.

And Russia claims to have been open to a negotiated settlement since before fighting even commenced. In a major national address on Tuesday, Vladimir Putin stated, "in December 2021, we officially submitted draft agreements on security guarantees to the USA and NATO. In essence, all key, fundamental points were rejected. After that it finally became clear that the go-ahead for the implementation of aggressive plans had been given and they were not going to stop."

The Pentagon and State Department planners view the war in Ukraine as just one front in a worldwide effort to assert the unchecked dominance of US empire. Every existential security concern of its major rivals – whether it is the militarization of Ukraine for Russia or separatism in Taiwan or Hong Kong for China – is viewed as a pressure point to be relentlessly inflamed using all the tools at the United States' disposal. It is clear who the main threat to peace in the world is.

Peace will win out over escalation only if the people raise their voice and demand it. On March 18 outside the White House, thousands of people from across the United States rallied in a powerful rejection of US policy in Ukraine and the Pentagon's entire global war drive. The war has been a catastrophe for Ukrainians, Russians, and all people in the world who fear an all-out clash between the two countries with the largest nuclear arsenals. We need to stop the US/NATO war machine before the world reaches the point of no return. 🙌

Peace Press Collective Seeking Editors, Writers and Proof Readers

The *Peace Press* Collective produces the bi-monthly (every other month) publication of the Peace & Justice Center. The next issue will be out in June.

Deadline for submission of articles is May 17.

Articles are proofed and lightly edited for grammar, spelling. Then the finished *Peace Press* is to be proofed at the end of the month before publication.

Please reply to zenekar2@gmail.com with PEACE PRESS in all caps on the subject line.



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Anamnesis

To forget a holocaust is to kill twice. –Elie Wiesel

Europe calls out the Jewess in me.
I'm thirteen again in my pink Bat Mitzvah dress.
My parents' need for custom smothered me
the dairy dishes in their proper bunker
segregated from the meat
like men and women in my grandma's shul.

I fought the annexation of my time
my need to wander the green woods
diverted to the temple's rows of walnut seats.
Tuesdays, Thursdays, Sundays spent in Hebrew class
and half-day Saturdays when I'd sneak out
to flirt with boys on the front steps.

Last month in Budapest, my grandma's land
the sight of a red scarf ignites my Magyar soul.
I salivate for gulyásleves, paprikás potatoes
tales spun on the spindle of her wit
and foreign names that loll
like jellied candies on my tongue.

We visit the old quarter with Ruben
our blind guide, zigzag up narrow alleys
to the Great Synagogue and some smaller ones.
He tells about the Shoe Memorial
where Nazis executed hundreds at the Danube.
Always economical

they chained the people, each to each
lined them up along the bank
then shot the first in every row
so all would tumble to a watery grave.
The river is no longer blue, he said
it runs forever red.

And suddenly, we are there, face to face
with leather tongues and fraying laces
cast in lifelike bronze. A pair of calf-high boots
arrests me, shanks torn back like corn husks.
Last night's rain puddles in a ring of baby shoes
a fistful of pebbles dribbled into each, ballast for our grief

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Host of *Rivertown Poets in Petaluma*



Volunteer on a Peace Team to the West Bank for 3-5 weeks


Meta Peace Team has been invited to place international peace teams in the West Bank by Palestinians who are committed to nonviolence, striving for justice and ending the occupation. Team members will be prepared through extensive training prior to departure; they are taught human rights monitoring and reporting, protective accompaniment, other creative tools of nonviolence, and the culture and history of Palestine/Israel. Living conditions might include staying in Palestinian homes or may be more basic.

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District 4 - James.Gore@sonoma-county.org

District 5 - Linda.Hopkins@sonoma-county.org

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Senator.McGuire@sen.ca.gov

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Assemblymember Jim Wood

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(707) 576-2526, Fax: (707) 576-2297

California Assembly Website: assembly.ca.gov

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Sonoma County Social Justice Groups

ALL PHONE AREA CODES ARE (707)
UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE

350 Sonoma County – Engaging our community in the work of 350.org to solve the climate crisis. 350sonomacounty.org

ACLU Sonoma Co., working to preserve individual working rights and liberties. sonomaaclu.org

Allies Safety Network – compiling a phone chain/helpline to build a safety network for those at risk of harassment to provide a supportive presence in situations of hateful threats. Join the Network Call List: 583-9168

Alternatives to Violence – Presents experiential workshops in personal growth in the community and prisons. 545-1798

Comité VIDA – Defends the human and civil rights of immigrants. 523-1740, cirsc@yahoo.com,

Daily Acts – Offers sustainable solutions rooted in the power of inspired daily actions. 789-9664, dailyacts.org

Fukushima Response – works to inform about the Fukushima melt downs, monitor the consequences, advocate for the shut down of Diablo Canyon. fukushimaresponse.org. 823-9203

Green Party of Sonoma County – sonomgreenparty.org

Green Sangha – Spiritually engaged environmental action. info@greensangha.org

HPEACE – Health Professionals for Equality and Community Empowerment. hpeacesonomacounty.wordpress.com

Healdsburg Peace Project – Peace and social justice action group, Healdsburg. 431-1129, healdsburgpeaceproject.org

Hate Free Petaluma Progressive organization.

www.facebook.com/hatefreepetaluma/

Homeless Action – Advocating for people without shelter. 795-2890

Indivisible Goups – All the groups are on Facebook.

Indivisible Sonoma County: indivisiblesoco.com
Indivisible Petaluma: indivisiblepetaluma@gmail.com,
or follow on Twitter at @IndivisibleLuma

Indivisible Sebastopol: indivisible.wsc@gmail.com

Indivisible Healdsburg
Indivisible Windsor

LezResist! A visible unified Lesbian presence in support of each other, and stand in solidarity with the many communities, causes, and policies under attack by the US administration. Info @ LezResist@gmail.com.

LGBTQ Connection, Napa & Sonoma Counties – Sonoma County, 714 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95401, 707-582-0552, emerson@lgbtqconnection.org

Listening for a Change – Programs support listening and oral history to create a caring community. 578-5420,

listeningforachange.org **MEChA de Sonoma** – Student group that focuses on issues affecting the Chicano/Latino community. info@mechadesonoma.org

Los Cien – advances belonging, trust and equity by engaging with community, facilitating honest dialogue, elevating Latinx pride and power in So.Co. loscien.org

Metta Center for Nonviolence – Works to promote and build a nonviolent culture worldwide. 774-6299

MOVES-Minimizing Occurrences of Violence in Everyday Society – Stresses nonviolence as the answer to society's ph. 524-1900

NAACP - National Association for the Advancement of Colored People – Seeks to eliminate racial hatred, racial profiling and discrimination. naacpsantarosasonomaco.org Email: naacp.srsc1074b@gmail.com 707.536.1047

National Women's History Project – coordinates observances of Women's History month around the country. 636-2888, nwhp@aol.com

North Bay Jobs with Justice – organized for better conditions and a living wage for workers. Email: northbayjobswithjustice@gmail.com, Website: northbayjobswithjustice.org, www.facebook.com/nbjwj Ph: 346-1187

North Bay Organizing Project – a regional community organization. www.facebook.com/NorthBayOrganizingProject 318-2818

North Coast Coalition for Palestine – Brings greater awareness to the plight of the Palestinian people and works to end US military support for Israel. 575-8902. www.nccpal.org or find us on Facebook.

NOW of Sonoma County – local chapter of the National Organization for Women. 545-5036

Occupy Sonoma County – Embraces the egalitarian, deep democracy principles of the Occupy Movement with a regional strategy for effectively organizing county-wide social justice campaigns that are globally relevant. 877-6650, OccupySonomaCounty.org

Organizing for Action: Progressive organizing project. Contact Linda Hemenway: whatisworking@gmail.com or 707-843-6110 and Facebook

Peace Alliance – Mission is to campaign for a cabinet-level US Department of Peace. 838-8647, maggik3@sonic.net, thepeacealliance.org

Peace Roots Alliance – We seek to create a peaceful, just and sustainable world for future generations. 765-0196, Linda@peaceroots.org

Petaluma Blacks for Community Development – facebook.com/pb4cd

Petaluma Progressives – Grassroots, political education and action group. Producers of the Progressive Festival. 763-8134, info@progressivefestival.org

Praxis Peace Institute – Peace Education organization, 939-2973, praxispeace.org

Progressive Sonoma – Peaceful Resistance Network. An umbrella association to network Sonoma's local progressive action groups. peacefulresistance9.wixsite.com/progressivesonoma. Facebook at Peaceful Resistance Sonoma

Project Censored/Media Freedom Foundation – Publishes the top 25 most censored news stories each year. Mickey@projectcensored.org. projectcensored.org.

Racial Justice Allies – Developing anti-racist practices among white social justice activists. 795-2890 racialjusticeallies@gmail.com, www.racialjusticeallies.org

Sonoma County Black Forum: Our mission is to lead, serve, and thrive, by promoting positive community and youth engagement events. Monthly meetings. sonomacountyblackforum@gmail.com

Physicians for a National Health Program, Sonoma County (PNHP). In support of single payer health insurance. 763-1925. sngold@juno.com. pnhpc.org.

Sonoma County Climate Activist Network (SoCo CAN!) Groups and individuals working address and reverse climate change. Meet in months with a 5th Monday, 7-9 PM at the PJC. Info: 595-0320 or SonomaCountyCAN@gmail.com (email preferred).

Sonoma County Coastal Hills: gardens@mcn.org

Sonoma County Nonviolence Training Collective offers free trainings in methods and principles for progressive social change and peace. soconvtc@gmail.com.

Sonoma County Resistance via change.org

Sonoma Solidarity with Standing Rock – Supporting indigenous rights and fossil fuel resistance. SonomaSolidarity.org, facebook.com/SonomaNoDAPL. 792-4422.

Sonoma Valley Peace & Justice – Peace and social justice group for Sonoma Valley. audreyvh@sbcglobal.net

Sunrise Movement, Sonoma County Hub – Our hub believes in the power of mobilizing youth, taking direct and indirect action, building political power, civic engagement, and partnerships. More info: www.sunrisesoco.org and facebook.com/SunriseSoCo

SURJ (Showing Up For Racial Justice, Sonoma County) – facebook.com/SURJSonomaCounty

United Farm Workers – 1700 Corby Ave., Santa Rosa 528-3039

United Nations Association – Builds public understanding and support for the United Nations. Facebook

Veterans for Peace – Organization of vets working together for peace and justice through nonviolence. 536-6002

VIDAS - Vital Immigrant Defense Advocacy and Services 576 B St Suite 1C, Santa Rosa, CA 95401, vidaslegal.org Sonoma County, Napa County, Solano County Providing Low-Cost, Immigration Law Services, Advocacy, and Community Education. (707) 523-1740, Spanish/English, Monday-Friday 9am-1pm and 2-5pm

Legal Assistance Women in Black – Women who stand in silent vigil to protest war and human rights abuses.

Women's Justice Center – Advocacy for victims of rape, domestic violence, and child abuse, particularly in the Latina community. 575-3150, justicewomen.com

For additions or changes to this list,
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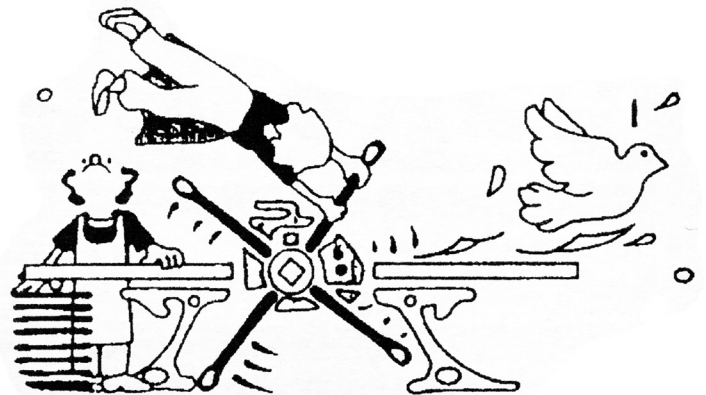
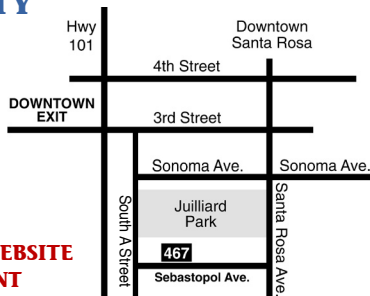
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